Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AF-06 NEA-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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R 210032Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8465

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1505

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 1104

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: KOREA IN 30TH UNGA: DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

- 1. MOFA IO AND TREATIES BUREAU DIRECTOR HAN BRIEFED POLCOUNS FEBRUARY 20 ON TENTATIVE ROK PLANS FOR HIGH-LEVEL MISSIONS TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES OF AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST. MISSIONS ARE BEING PLANNED AS PART OF SELECTIVE APPROACH AIMED AT GAINING SUPPORT FOR ROK ON KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA.
- 2. ACCORDING TO HAN, MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KIM CHONG-TAE WILL VISIT SEVERAL PERSIAN GULF STATES IN MARCH. ALSO BEGINNING IN MARCH, ROK MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION CHOE KYONG-NOK WILL VISIT ROK SUPPORTERS IN AFRICA: LESOTHO, GAMBIA, CHAD, AND LIBERIA.
- 3. IN APRIL, MOFA PLANS TO SEND VICE FONMIN LHO (NO) SIN-YONG TO NIGER, DAHOMEY, GABON, MALAWI AND MAURITIUS, DESCRIBED AS "PROBLEM" COUNTRIES BY MOFA.
- 4. IN MAY, FONMIN KIM TONG-CHO PLANS VISITS TO MOROCCO, TUNISIA, IRAN, AND JORDAN. FOLLOWING MONTH, FONMIN TENTATIVELY WILL VISIT SENEGAL, LIBERIA, CAR, AND ZAIRE.

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5. COMMENT: THESE TENTATIVE PLANS APPEAR TO REPRESENT

MUCH MORE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED POLICY THAN IN PAST YEARS, WHEN ROK HAS SENT TRAVELING MISSIONS OUT TO BROAD GEOGRAPHIC AREA, WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR SPECIFIC LOBBYING NEEDS IN COUNTRIES COVERED AND WITH FEW DEMONSTRABLE RESULTS. TAILORED APPROACH IS MATCHED BY RECENT RE-SHUFFLE OF OVER FORTY MIDDLE-LEVEL DIPLOMATS DESIGNED TO BEEF UP ROK MISSIONS IN CERTAIN AFRICAN AND OTHER KEY COUNTRIES WHILE REDUCING SIZE OF MISSIONS IN MORE COMFORTABLE POSTS SUCH AS WASHINGTON. MOFA APPEARS TO BE PROCEEDING VERY DELIBERATELY AT THIS EARLY STAGE TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN 30TH UNGA.

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